

These minutes have not been approved by the board

**MINUTES OF THE TELECONFERENCE OF THE
REGISTERED
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALISTS**

April 7, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call

George Hanssen, Chair, called the teleconference of the Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists to order at 12:02 p.m. (CST), Wednesday, April 7, 2010. He announced that this is a public meeting and the Open Meetings Law is posted. DHHS Staff and George Hanssen were located in the Learning Center at the State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska; and Board members were located at their homes or businesses. The meeting was duly publicized by distribution of the Notice of the Conference Call and Agenda prior to the meeting and posting the agenda at the entrance of the Department of Health and Human Services/Division of Public Health at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the conference call. This meeting was held for the purpose of expediting a licensing application.

George Hanssen, Chairperson
Michael Gould, Vice Chairperson
Joyce Jensen, Secretary
Douglas Clark, Professional Member
Scott Holmes, Professional Member

Delores James, Health Licensing Coordinator
Teresa Hampton, DHHS Legal Staff (Entered the meeting room at 12:24 p.m.)
Julie Agena, Assistant Attorney General

Absent: Raymond Chollet, Lay Member

Adoption of Agenda

Clark moved, seconded by Hanssen, to adopt the agenda. Voting aye: Hanssen, Jensen, Gould, Clark and Holmes. Voting nay: None. Absent and not voting: Chollet. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Gould moved, seconded by Clark, to approve the minutes of December 10, 2009. Voting aye: Jensen, Gould, Clark and Hanssen. Voting nay: None. Abstaining: Holmes. Absent and not voting: Chollet. Motion carried.

LICENSURE APPLICATION

James stated that Allen Brown applied for an initial credential as a Registered Environmental Health Specialist and wanted to know if the State of Nebraska would accept the examination results of the Arizona Sanitarians Registration Examination, which he passed on October 22, 1998.

The examination that Arizona used then and is currently using is the old National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) examination. Nebraska uses a newer version of the examination; therefore, the Board has been asked to determine if the two examinations are equivalent.

Hampton explained that Hansmeyer wanted her to discuss how a person would make the comparison of the examinations so that you know whether you want to approve the examination as being equivalent. Most people go through and look at methods of determining equivalency by reviewing the content areas and by answering the following questions: Do they cover the same areas? Are they of the same depth? That doesn't necessary mean the same number of questions because that can vary over years. Does it make the same type of determination that you would require of the Nebraska examination to make sure that someone is minimally competent.

Hanssen stated that he called NEHA to inquire about the examination and was told that NEHA no longer has a reciprocity agreement with Arizona. Arizona still uses the examination that NEHA used up until January 1, 1998. If a person took the examination in Arizona before the aforementioned date, they would meet Nebraska's requirements, if they took it after the aforementioned date there would be a need to question whether Nebraska would accept the examination.

Hampton said that the Board can't use NEHA denial as their denial. The Board has to make their own determination.

Several of the board members felt that the two examinations are equivalent.

Motion

Holmes moved, seconded by Clark, that the Board accept the examination given by Arizona as equivalent to the current Nebraska certification examination. Voting aye: Jensen, Gould, Clark, Holmes and Hanssen. Voting nay: None. Absent and not voting: Chollet. Motion carried.

Registered Environmental Health Specialists Application Closed Session

Jensen moved, seconded by Clark, to move into closed session at 12:25 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a registered environmental health specialists' application and to protect the reputation of individuals. Voting aye: Gould, Clark,

Hanssen, Jensen and Holmes. Voting nay: None. Absent and not voting: Collett. Motion carried.

Out of closed Session

Jensen moved, seconded by Clark, to come out of closed session at 12:38 p.m. Voting aye: Gould, Holmes, Clark, Hanssen and Jensen. Voting nay: None. Absent and not voting: Chollet. Motion Carried.

Jensen moved, seconded by Clark to accept the application of Allen Brown for REHS for the State of Nebraska. Voting aye: Clark, Hanssen, Jensen, Holmes and Gould. Voting nay: None. Absent and not voting Collett. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Jensen, Secretary

Prepared by: Delores James, Health Licensure coordinator